

Working collaboratively with community partners to provide opportunities and resources to our students is something the Orleans Parish School Board and NOLA Public Schools embraces. When 9th Ward Field of Dreams asked for financial contributions from the district, the school board was initially supportive of the project but recognized its responsibility as a good steward of public dollars first. In its effort to structure an agreement with 9th Ward Field of Dreams, the OPSB proposed a set of procedural safeguards to ensure that public dollars would only be provided towards the field if specific benchmarks and parameters were met by the community partner.

Though FOD and OPSB representatives discussed a \$1.5 million contribution from the OPSB, it was to fund a *portion* of the project only. This discussion was made with the stipulation that 9th Ward Field of Dreams would raise the remaining total funds needed before the OPSB contribution was to be made. Thankfully, due to the OPSB administration's forethought and due diligence, the project never received any contribution of public dollars as the organization could not meet the set of requirements set forth to ensure students would benefit in the long run. A vote to allocate funds to the project was never considered by the board.